

## Selectmen's minutes of meeting Jan. 21, 2020

Members present: Mark Newman, Brian O'Rourke, George Riley, Joanne Grybosh  
Dolores Harasyko, Admin. Asst.

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting is being recorded

Reviewed and signed minutes of meetings.

Dolores explained that she is 2 weeks behind on the minutes. This happens every year during budget season and is not uncommon. They will be caught up as soon as possible.

Reviewed and signed purchase orders.

Brigette Ruthman in to discuss concerns with Dodd Road conditions. Brigette would like a permanent solution to the dangerous conditions of Dodd Road. She is concerned that medical and fire equipment cannot get to her. Brian asked where she got the info regarding the base of the road. She responded that she discussed this with DPW Super. Brad. Brian responded that he has done extensive research on our dirt roads and the dirt roads in surrounding towns. He reviewed the meeting from last March 14, 2019 work session in which Dodd Road was the topic of discussion. Brian read aloud the minutes from that meeting. At that time we were going to use Chapter 90 funds on Dodd Road and do a full depth reclamation. However, the town applied for the MVP grant (Municipal Vulnerability Program). The MVP grant is specifically for problems created from global warming, especially dirt road infrastructure. We decided to hold off until after the required MVP classes were complete.

Brian reviewed the Mass Works Grant for Route 57 in conjunction with New Marlborough. He explained that we have to prioritize as the funding becomes available. Brigette asked about having the state put some money into Dodd Road as it is an access road to York Lake. Brian responded that is what the Chapter 90 program is for. Brian reviewed the weekend weather that caused the unusual thaw of the dirt roads. We had a 60 degree day in January. Brad was in constant contact with police and fire regarding access to dirt roads. There were problems throughout Berkshire County, not just Sandisfield. Brian read aloud headlines from the Berkshire Eagle and social media comments about mud season. Brad reviewed the ditch work and grading work that has been done on Dodd Road. During the 3 day period of the warm spell he placed 83 tons of gravel to Dodd Road. He explained that the more traffic on the dirt roads makes it even muddier.

Brian reiterated that Sandisfield is not unique during mud season, it is throughout Berkshire County. He stated that we are doing as much as all the other towns are doing. It is also a money problem. He explained that there are 33,499 acres in Sandisfield and out of that 17,499 acres are either State owned or are in one of the Chapter programs which are at a greatly reduced tax rate. Some are tax exempt.

George reviewed that the MVP Grant is specifically for climate change and the havoc that it is reeking on our dirt roads. He explained that they have spent 80 to 100 hours on the Route 57 grant.

Brian recapped all the work they have been working on which includes Cold Spring Road, West Hubbard Road, River Road, South Sandisfield Road, West Street, Route 57, Route 57 bridge approaches and painting. They have applied for and received \$500,000 for the "no name bridge"

on Sandisfield Road, they have applied for and received the Green Communities grant for \$128,000.

Brad would like to do a traffic count on Dodd Road. He is stock piling stone in anticipation of mud season.

Brian said that they would welcome Brigitte reaching out to the DCR and the state for any funding for Dodd Road.

Brigitte thanked them for their hard work and diligence.

Brad presented information on govdeals.com. It is a government site that we can list surplus equipment for resale. We will list the Dodge starting at \$15,000 and the loader hoe starting at \$8,500.

Discussed the Mass Recycling contract.

Selectmen's updates:

Mark and Brian are attending a meeting in Williamsburg for the announcement and awarding of the Mass Works grant with New Marlborough.

Town Manager updates:

She continues to work on the town credit card

Continues to work of the FY2021 budgets

Roger Brown commented that the Finance Committee would like more prior year numbers. Joanne explained that the actuals were not available to the boards and committees. Discussed the lack of communication from the school regarding the FY2021 budget.

Future agenda items:

Budget work session

Mass Recycling Contract

Special permit for Mercier trailer on Sandisfield Road

Reviewed mail

Reviewed and signed warrants

At 8:06 motion made to enter into Executive Session for the express purpose of discussing the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual and to adjourn immediately after Roll call: Mark, yes, Brian, yes, George, yes

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Mark Newman

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Brian O'Rourke

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George Riley